WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

[c1] A face identification device comprising:

detection means for detecting face images from human body images taken by a camera;

storage means in which a face image of a specific person is previously stored;

determination means for determining whether a face image detected by said detection means matches with the face image stored in said storage means by comparing both face images; and

abstraction means for applying an abstraction process to a predetermined face image out of the face images detected by said detection means in order to make the predetermined face image unrecognizable,

said abstraction means applying the abstraction process exclusively to a detected face image when said determination means determines that both face images do not match with each other, and not applying the abstraction process to a detected face image when said determination means determines that both face images match with each other.

[c2] The face identification device according to claim 1, wherein said abstraction process is a mosaic process for making a face image portion mosaic.

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[c3] The face identification device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein when said determination means determines that both face images match with each other, a detected face image is not applied with the abstraction process and is applied with a marker.

[c4] The face identification device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein when a face image detected by said detection means is determined to match with the face image stored in said storage means, the image of the specific person which is not applied with the abstraction process on the face and remaining parts thereof and the images of people other than the specific person which are applied with the abstraction process exclusively on the faces thereof are displayed, and a warning is also outputted.

[c5] A face identification method comprising the steps of:

detecting face images from human body images taken by a camera;

determining whether a detected face image matches with the face image previously stored by comparing both face images;

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applying an abstraction process exclusively to a detected face image in order to make the detected face image unrecognizable, when it is determined that both face images do not match with each other; and

not applying the abstraction process to the detected face image when it is determined that both face images match with each other.